

STEPTOE & JOHNSON^{LLP}

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December 5, 2003

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20054

Re: *Consolidated Application of General Motors Corporation, Hughes Electronics Corporation, and The News Corporation Limited for Authority to Transfer Control, MB Docket No. 03-124, Ex Parte Notice*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On December 4 and 5, 2003, representatives of EchoStar Satellite Corporation made telephone calls in connection with the above-captioned proceeding to the following:

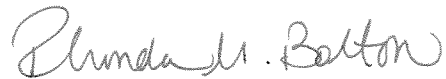
- Jennifer Manner, Senior Counsel to Commissioner Abernathy (December 4, 2003);
- W. Kenneth Ferree and Barbara Esbin of the Media Bureau (December 4, 2003);
- Johanna Shelton, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Adelstein (December 4, 2003);
- Jonathan Cody, Legal Advisor to Chairman Powell (December 5, 2003); and
- Catherine Crutcher Bohigian, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Martin (December 5, 2003).

In each of the calls, EchoStar's representatives pointed out that any conditions to be placed by the Commission upon approval of the merger should protect all multichannel video programming distributors ("MVPD"s), not just cable operators. Non-cable MVPDs have significantly less leverage than cable systems, and the former's need for protection is, if anything, greater.

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In accordance with Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b), one copy of this *ex parte* notice is being submitted electronically to your office.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rhonda M. Bolton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rhonda" being more prominent.

Rhonda M. Bolton
Counsel for EchoStar Satellite Corporation

cc: Ms. Catherine Crutcher Bohigian
Mr. Jonathan Cody
Ms. Barbara Esbin
Mr. W. Kenneth Ferree
Ms. Jennifer Manner
Ms. Johanna Shelton